

## MAKING OF DEMIJOHNS

Some 700,000 Turned Out Yearly in This Country.

### LARGE SIZES IMPORTED

New York's One Factory Has Been at It Fifty Years—Young Women Employed to Do Most of the Basket Work—The Handle Maker an Expert—Hand Work.

There is only one demijohn factory in New York, this one being located in Brooklyn borough. Most of the work is done by young women. There are employed some men, who put on the handles, though there is here at work one blind man, who makes bottoms, but most of the weaving of the basket coverings around the bottles, which includes the bulk of the work, is done by young women, says the New York Sun.

In making the wicker covering of a demijohn the work begins at the bottom. The weavers sit with their backs to the wall in two lines down the sides of the factory room facing the centre, while down the middle of the room, standing on the floor, are long rows of demijohn bottles to be covered. At the end of each row of basket weavers sits a bottom maker.

The bottom maker picks up a sufficient number of reeds or sticks of length and size suitable for the bottom of the cover to be made and these sticks he crosses so that their ends radiate like the points of a star and then he proceeds quickly to weave in and out over these radiating sticks reeds to form the bottom, setting the reed snugly in at the centre at the start, and then rapidly running the reed around and around in and out of the radiating sticks until he has brought the bottom thus woven to the required dimensions.

Perhaps he tests this then with a wooden gauge to see that it is just right, as it is more than likely to be, for he becomes adept by long practice and he can tell pretty accurately without measuring, and then he snips off the projecting ends of the sticks and tosses the bottom to a girl, who puts in the uprights.

The uprights are the reeds that form the vertical framework of the woven basket. They are composed of long reeds, and shorter ones alternating all around. The shorter reeds will go up the side of the bottle and over the shoulder to the bottom of the neck; the long reeds will go up the side and over the shoulder and on up the top of the neck.

When the uprights have thus been placed another girl takes the bottom and bends the uprights up and weaves around among them at the bend three courses of reed. This fixes all the upright in their relative positions, and the weaving, thus done, makes also a sort of snailcup cup of basket work deep enough to hold the bottle in place without shifting when it has been placed within the skeleton framework, and the weaving of the complete basket is begun.

Supporting the bottle in her lap with its neck to the front, the basket weaver now starts making the basket work around it, beginning at the base, the reeds that are to be woven in are all thoroughly soaked before using to make them soft and pliable and easy to work so they can be drawn and fitted snugly. All the uprights stick out around the bottle long and wavy toward the neck, and it might seem that it would be a difficult thing to get round them to get the weaves she weaves among them into place; but the weaver has a way of bending the uprights aside one after another as she comes to them, all the time steadily rotating the bottle as she runs the reed around it, in and out, under and over the uprights, which spring back one after another as she passes on.

With its cover completed, the demijohn now goes to the handle maker to have its handle put on. The woven cover is made of split reeds; the handle is of whole reed.

First the handle maker cuts a short length of reed, one end of which he tucks under the basketwork on one side of the bottle just below the shoulder while he bends and tucks the other end into the top of the basket work around the neck. This reed is called a false bow; it really serves as a core for and form on which he will now build the handle.

He now takes a reed of some length, one end of which with the end of a tool made for the purpose, he puts through the demijohn covering along the lower end of the false bow. Drawing the end of this reed well through from under the covering, the handle maker doubles it up along the other end, and the reed thus doubled he winds with two or three turns around the false bow until he comes to the neck of the bottle, around which he turns it.

This gives the handle its secure hold there, as running it through the cover does below, and that turn around the neck, with the double reed, also covers the raw edge of the weaving at the top and gives the work a nice finish there.

Some demijohns of the largest sizes are imported here from Europe. There are produced in this country by all the demijohn manufacturers put together about 700,000 demijohns annually.

## FOR NOCTURNAL FIGHTING.

Rifle or Revolver Sights For Night Firing.

The importance of night attacks in war, made evident during the Boer war in South Africa, was still further emphasized in the recent campaign in Manchuria, and there is little doubt that such attacks will be a prominent feature of future wars.

The greater the accuracy and range of firearms the greater the necessity for approaching the enemy without being seen, and consequently the stronger the temptation to make night attacks.

The two great objections to night attacks have been, first, the danger of mistaking the road or attacking the wrong point of the enemy's line, and the confusion usually accompanying such attacks, due to uncertainty of all kinds, secondly, the inability to deliver aimed fire in the attack, because the sights cannot be used in the dark and it is often impossible even to see the enemy.

The Japanese have shown that night attacks can be made without confusion if troops are properly trained to this work.

The question of aimed fire is therefore the only one remaining to be solved, and it seems that the Allgemeine Waflentechnische Gesellschaft in Berlin has solved even this satisfactorily in its new invention, called the noctroscope.

It is really not a sight in the ordinary sense at all, and yet it is a very excellent sight in a more general sense, inasmuch as it serves to aim firearms very accurately as far as the radius of action extends.

The apparatus is very simple and consists of a short cylinder (attached to the under side of the barrel of a revolver or automatic pistol) containing an incandescent lamp, a reflector and a lens, so arranged that by bringing the lamp into action a cone of light is thrown out to the front of the bore or muzzle of the firearm.

The arrangement of the parts and the action of the noctroscope are very ingeniously contrived. The incandescent lamp itself is the most interesting part. It consists of two filaments in planes perpendicular to each other; one, an outer, larger and higher filament, in the vertical plane of fire of the firearm; the other, an inner, smaller and lower filament, in a vertical plane perpendicular to the first. The object of this arrangement will appear below.

A dry battery carried in the pocket is used to furnish the current for this electric light. The reflector is in the rear of the incandescent lamp and reflects the light to the front to illuminate the object or point to be fired on.

Of course, this firing is only applicable at comparatively short ranges, where point blank firing is required. The apparatus is at present available only up to 40 or 50 yards range, but even this will be very useful in night attacks, in which close approach is necessary, and in which discovery has been successfully done, and indeed light attacks are very generally close range affairs.

But improvements are in progress, and it is hoped to increase the range very greatly in the near future. An improved form of lens is to be used to throw the cone of light further to the front and an elevating arc is to be attached to the side of the apparatus (properly illuminated by a little lamp, of course) for giving the elevation corresponding to the range.

The filaments of the lamp if made of carbon would be broken by the shocks of discharge after firing a few rounds, consequently they are made of metallic threads, which will enable a Mandler automatic pistol, for example, to endure from twenty to forty shots without breaking.

The light thrown to the front does not offer a good target to the enemy, as would appear to be the case. Indeed, actual test has shown that it is very difficult to aim at the light, and the glare protects the man behind it. Moreover, the firearms can be held over the head or to one side and thus avoid all danger to the man using it, and yet his aim will not be disturbed since he has merely to put the illuminated cross on the part of the enemy to be hit and fire.

The cost of the apparatus complete is about \$15, and it can be applied to any firearm.

Other uses for this apparatus readily suggest themselves. Its usefulness on outposts and in night reconnaissance, as well as by the police, etc., is evident.

The South American conquest cost Great Britain a cool \$1,200,000,000 and the Boers must have spent a sixth as much more in defending their little republics. To get a foothold in Manchuria and drive back the Russian armies took a tidy \$1,100,000,000 from the Japanese treasury, while the ambitions for a greater empire cost the Czar \$1,500,000,000. In these wars, not counting the many millions which Germany is still paying out in Southwest Africa, the stupendous total of \$4,000,000,000 was expended.

An Oregon attorney, representing a client whose title to a certain cold storage plant was under fire, closed an able argument before the Oregon Supreme Court recently with the following bit of pathos: "Your honors there is more resting upon your decision than this cold storage plant; a human life is at stake. My client's life's efforts are in this cold storage; his body and soul are wrapped up in this cold storage."

## ARCHITECTS' MISTAKES

Queer Errors That Have Happened in House Building.

### OWNER PAYS THE PRICE

An Amateur's Protest Shown in His Own Design—Stairs Too Steep to Climb Down and a Fireplace With a Wooden Beam in the Line of the Flames.

On one of the hills of Westchester, there is a slowly rising a structure of mysterious and unusual ugliness. It is a four stories' high and is surrounded on one end by a square superstructure which looks like an enormous red brick packing box. Viewed from the front this building has all the graceful lines and picturesque beauty of a canal boat. Its lateral view looks like a section of a cigar factory on Avenue A, says the New York Sun.

The owner of this house designed it himself. There could be no doubt of that after one view. A child might have designed it on a slate at school, since its proportions are exactly of the kind that youthful scholars draw with a state pencil and write under it "A House." It would clear up matters if the owner should point out one of his red brick walls "A House."

"I've got an architect," he said the other day. "Of course I have. I can't recall the number now for I never go near him."

"And let me tell you, young man," he added emphatically, "that is the only way to have an architect. Forget his number and don't go near him—at any rate until your house is built."

Such is the advice of the man who is prejudiced against the profession and has put up the loft building on the hilltop as his everlasting protest against the architect. A reporter tried to find out what the architect might have done to lose favor.

"I'll tell you what an architect did to me," said a woman who must weigh 250 in spite of her shortness, "and you can understand why I should be prejudiced against them. I wanted my house built with a broad room on the second floor. They said I could have that although it might make it necessary to have the stairs a little steep, as there was only a certain space on which to build. I did not object to that and the men went to work on that understanding."

"I was too stout to go prowling around climbing up and down the ladders, but my daughter watched the progress of the house. She is slight and spry, and could of course go about any where without difficulty. The house was finished in fact before I went into it, having come back from Europe just the day after it was finally furnished."

"Why in the world are those stairs so steep?" I asked of my daughter.

"Oh, that's on account of the large drawing room," she said. "They're all right."

"Well, I got up them with difficulty. It was like walking up the side of a house. That was nothing, however, to the surprise I experienced when I started to come down. I stopped myself with horror and looked over the precipice they had built. With my size it would have been impossible to have got to the bottom. The steps looked like little shelves about two inches wide. I ran to the telephone and the architect had somebody there within an hour."

"You see how impossible it is," I said. "Nothing could induce me to take my life in my hands by trying to go down those steps. You will have to change them or realize that you have made me a prisoner for life on the second story. I would not try those steps for anything."

"He said it had been expressly understood that the stairs were to be narrow and steep for the sake of more room on the second floor. It never could have been understood about any stairs, however, that they were to be too steep for the woman who owned them to go up and down. The carpenters arrived the next day and began to change the angle. They worked for three weeks putting in the new stairs. Then I had to pay an extra \$500 for the changes that made it possible for me to use my stairway."

"That was not dangerous," said a man who heard the recital of this mistake, "but think of the peril that a man put me into. My house was finished and looked all right. We moved in late in the spring and everything went swimmingly until the autumn came. Then it was time to build a fire. There was a large open chimney place in the drawing room and we decided to try it. The first attempt brought a cloud of smoke which we could not account for, although it filled the room to suffocation."

"We found that the architects who built the house had left across the chimney at a distance of about six feet above the fireplace a thick wooden beam. Naturally as the heat of the fire ascended the beam began to ignite and smoke. The large fact that I intended to use in winter would probably have set fire to it within a short time after the big fire was lit. Well, you can imagine that I expressed my opinion freely to that architect."

## CAREFULLY GUARDED SECRETS.

Few of the King's Household Know About his Private Affairs.

There is a sense in which monarchs have no secrets. In the very nature of things they are compelled by the necessities of their position to take someone into their confidence with respect to almost every detail of their daily life. But for the most part these confidences are jealously guarded, and in a hundred and one ways the public curiosity has to satisfy itself with more or less plausible "guesses-at-truth."

To take an example, The last will and testament of Queen Victoria has never been disclosed, as the law of probate does not apply to the sovereign of the realm, says Cassell's Journal. For several years before her demise the society gossips used to profess an intimate knowledge of its contents; they knew how many folios it occupied, the exact number of codicils, the color of its bindings and other irrelevant facts. But all their predictions have been falsified by events, and although it is sometimes declared that many persons about the court are familiar with its chief provisions, there are probably not half a dozen people, besides her late majesty's own children, who have any real knowledge about it, and they will never tell. Even to this day the public is entirely in the dark as to the provisions of the will of the prince consort, and it is purely a guess that the chief legatees was his august widow.

Take the case of King Edward's private investments. These are known to but three courtiers, and only one schedule of them, it may be said with confidence, is in existence. People profess to know of large purchases of West End ground rents, of huge commitments in American railways, and so forth. For the most part, however, these securities are held in the names of trust intimates who are themselves large investors, and no estimates of his majesty's personal estate has any value whatever. Many European sovereigns, especially in the more restless portions of the continent, are said with much reason to keep the bulk of their private fortunes in the strong rooms of the Rothschilds and other financial houses in London and elsewhere, where their secrets are inviolable.

One veteran monarch, to the writer's knowledge, conducted his private business with his London agents through the medium of a young Englishman, whose duties were quite unsuspected, even by his own relatives. Whenever he came across the channel he used to put up with a linen draper whose acquaintance he formed in his boyhood, and by this means his movements were kept secret. If anyone had inquired his business, he would have produced a case of commercial samples and offered to open an account.

King Edward carries at one end of his gold Albert a gold key which there is no duplicate. All state papers, however, are kept in despatch boxes until transferred to the safes in the secretariat and of these the keys are kept by Lord Knollys. When his majesty has quitted his personal apartment no servant is allowed to enter until an assistant secretary has destroyed the contents of the waste paper basket, the blotting pads, and even the printed wrappers of newspapers received from every capital in Europe. It is an unwritten law that the private secretary shall not indulge in a gossip diary after the manner of Samuel Pepys—he must, of necessity, keep a daily record of bare facts—and certain courtiers, including the maids of honor, are required as a condition of their service to enter into an obligation of the same kind.

All royal telegrams are manipulated by a special operator, who is reserved for this duty. Unlike public messages, no duplicates are kept, and the original messages, in certain instances, are promptly returned to the palace, after a note has been made of the number of words for the purpose of account. The cipher codes which are used between the foreign office and the embassies abroad are not employed for the personal messages of the king, nor is any system of cryptic writing usual between monarch and monarch.

The German emperor encloses all his private letters in waterproof envelopes of a special make. He is believed to make freer use of secret devices in corresponding with his ministers and others than any other European monarch, and there is no doubt that his private safes contain a mass of secret intelligence, strategic memoranda made by his own hand, and other matter which, in England, are left to the departments responsible for such things. It is understood that he keeps no private diary, but the Empress Augusta has been accustomed ever since her marriage to commit her thoughts on current affairs to writing, and each January the diary for the previous year is locked and preserved in her "jewel safe."

The Minnesota State Auditor's office recently paid bounty claims on 1,021 full-grown wolves and 951 cubs. The amount paid out was \$9,721.50, and in this fiscal year about \$30,000 has been paid out on such claims. Marshall county made the biggest showing with \$1,620 paid, and claims for \$132.50 from Hennepin county were honored. The present bounty is \$7.50 for grown wolves and \$3 for cubs.

Present a small boy with a watch and tell him the time of his life.

## WEALTH WITHOUT OWNERS

Property For Which No Heirs Can Be Found.

### LOSE THEIR IDENTITY

\$4,000,000 in the Hands of the City Chamberlain—More Held by the State Treasurer—Some Mysterious Disappearances—Game of Hunting for Missing Heirs.

"Did you ever realize that millions of dollars are in the hands of the Chamberlain of New York City and the State Treasurer awaiting owners, and that lawyers are working on the task of searching for heirs for these funds all the time, succeeding or failing in this task in the most unusual ways?"

There is \$6,000,000 in the hands of the City Chamberlain alone, which would be given over to the heirs of the people who died and left the money.

If those heirs would only appear. "Another odd thing, do you realize that some of the most valuable property in New York city is not improved and remains occupied by ramshackle buildings because the owners have disappeared and that large rents are collected by people who have no right whatever to them?"

The speaker was a lawyer who makes a specialty of finding lost heirs to estates and owners of bank accounts who have disappeared.

"I often think that no man gets so strong an impression of the twisting paths of life, of the obscure solitudes into which people drift and of the mysterious ways in which they can be murdered or die in lonely places or just sink out of the current of life and disappear as a lawyer engaged in such work as this," he went on. "Dozens of men have disappeared in this way in cases which I have investigated."

"Who knows whether they have been knocked on the head or have taken to the river or have changed their names, although without apparent motive to do so, and are quietly living in some retired hamlet?"

"If you came into contact with such cases as I have before me day in and day out you would wonder how many of all these people that were well known and prominent one day and the next day have disappeared as utterly as if the earth had opened and swallowed them up."

"An odd case I remember—not the oddest, but still rather out of the ordinary—was that of a Belgian artist named Jean van der Stock. He lived in this country in New York, when he was about 30."

"He was a portrait painter and soon after arriving here received numerous lucrative commissions and in short was on the high tide of success in no time. He had a studio and living rooms in Waverley place, fixed up in bizarre fashion, and it was a favorite haunt of his friends to have tea there every afternoon and rabbit supper in the evening and that sort of thing."

"In 1892 he hired a safe deposit box from a Broadway company and put in it between \$5,000 and \$10,000 worth of securities. The next day he disappeared."

"We have hunted for him ever since, but in vain. We have found his old mother, who had not heard from him for three years before his death."

"The trust company would like to hand the securities over to her, and she is in poor circumstances, but it cannot do so as things are."

"What was his fate? Did he voluntarily disappear and simply forget the money? Or was he knocked on the head in some brawl along the water front as the end of a crazy spree? Or was he suddenly stricken with apoplexy and is lying in some interior city or perhaps right here in New York?"

"Who knows? No one has ever been able to find any trace of his whereabouts or any proof of his death. There are some queer cases of property practically ownerless in the best business and commercial part of New York. This arises from the same freak that is doubtless at the bottom of many of the lost heirs' mysteries."

"The owners suffered a sudden attack of aphasia or just took it into their heads to disappear. The fact remains that these properties are practically ownerless through these disappearances."

"People who collected the rents as agents or others who learned of the disappearance of the owner have succeeded in collecting the rents ever since, and are in many cases pocketing them and posing as the real owners. Oh, I know of several cases of this sort. Some of these properties are situated next to skyscrapers."

"As sites for high modern buildings they are very valuable, but they are covered with ramshackle edifices which pay a low but steady rent to the pseudo owners."

## ALL

One Year's Food for a Family of Four.

The idea prevails among the North that a vast quantity of food is consumed in the city of New York. It is a mistake. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

They are surprised will this pattern declare a writer in what is many times as much as the city consumes. They are surprised will this pattern declare a writer in what is many times as much as the city consumes. They are surprised will this pattern declare a writer in what is many times as much as the city consumes.

population of the city of New York. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.

The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed. The city consumes a vast quantity of food, but it is not as much as is generally supposed.